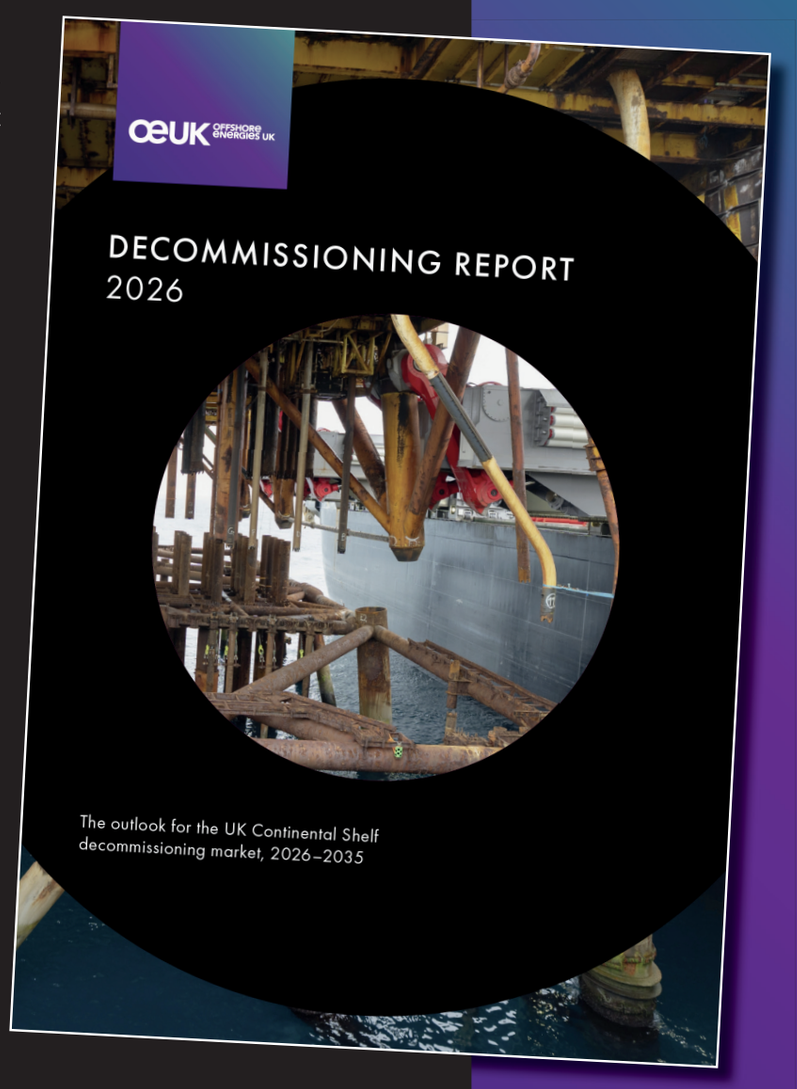
DECOMMISSIONING
REPORT 2026

The OEUK Decommissioning Report 2026 shows a UK Continental Shelf moving decisively from planning into delivery. The 2026–2035 outlook represents a **£24.7 billion industrial programme**, encompassing more than **1,800 wells, 135 topsides and 126 substructures,** with expenditure remaining at historically high levels through 2031. Wells remain the largest area of activity, while subsea work, offshore removals, dismantling and recycling become increasingly important as the decade progresses.

With UK-based tier 1 supplier organisations securing **71% of decommissioning contract value awarded in 2025,** the opportunity to retain skills, capability and economic value in the UK is substantial. Realising that opportunity will require earlier schedule visibility, collaborative campaigns and timely investment in specialist people, vessels, ports, yards and recycling capacity.



DOWNLOAD THE REPORT AT
OEUK.ORG.UK/DECOMMISSIONINGREPORT

UKCS Decommissioning: A Decade of

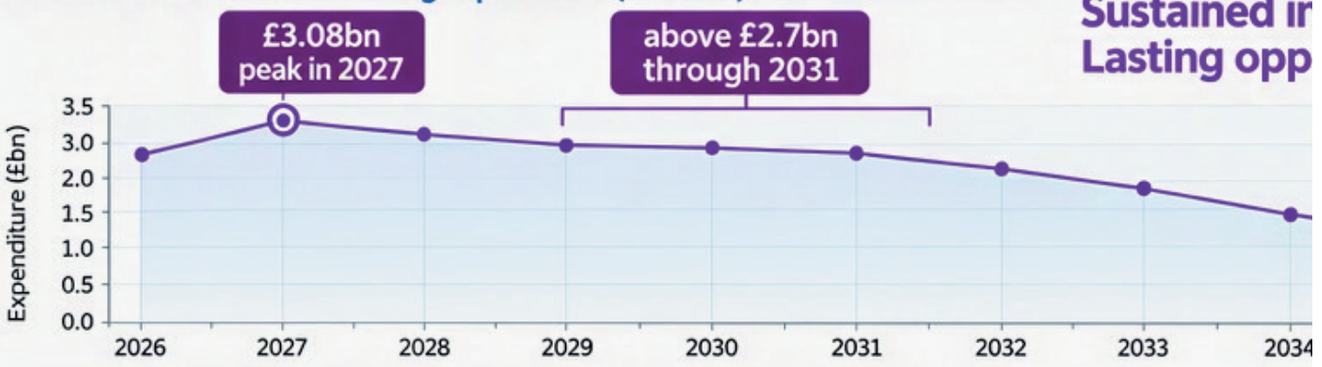
A £24.7bn industrial programme requiring early capacity

£24.7bn
forecast expenditure
2026–2035

1,834
wells
to be decommissioned

A sustained decade of activity

Forecast UKCS decommissioning expenditure (real £bn)



Sustained ir
Lasting opp

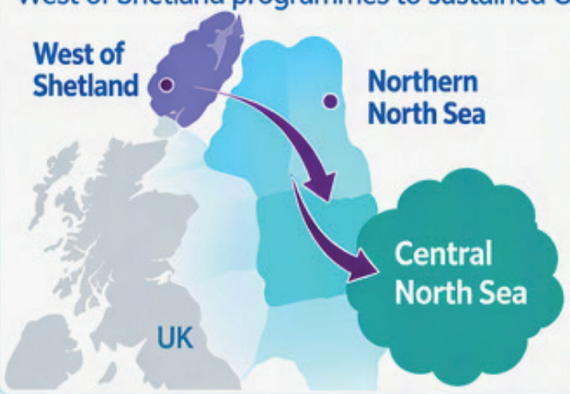
Wells concentrated 2026–2030

Heavy removals and subsea peaks 2027–2032

Renewed w

Regional transition drives the next decade

Capability moves from earlier Northern North Sea and West of Shetland programmes to sustained Central North Sea work.



56%
Central North Sea share of forecast expenditure

Redeploy specialist vessels, engineering resources and supply-chain capability to the Central North Sea.

Circular economy

Major infrastructure volum
for dismantling, recycling,



Five strategic actions for successful delivery

1 Publish visible schedules
Provide earlier, more certain scope and timing.

2 Aggregate compatible scopes
Enable campaign-based delivery and efficiencies.

**3 Secure sp
capacity e**
Derisk vessels,
and skilled labo

# of Delivery, 2026–2035

ity, coordinated campaigns and UK investment.

135
topsides
to be decommissioned

126
substructures
to be decommissioned



ny and onshore capacity

lumes will come ashore, creating significant demand
ng, reuse and materials management.



2.85m tonnes
expected onshore throughout

472,894 t
peak in 2028

71%
UK contract value in 2025 to tier 1 suppliers

FROM OFFSHORE REMOVAL TO A MORE CIRCULAR TOMORROW

PEOPLE
SKILLS
INFRASTRUCTURE
VALUE IN THE UK

e specialist
ity early
els, ports
abour.

4 Invest in ports, yards and recycling
Build UK onshore capability to maximise value.

5 Track completed closure, cost and UK value
Maintain transparent progress and economic impact.

Back a modern industrial Britain, secured by homegrown energy.

Back North Sea jobs. Not imports.



OEUK OFFSHORE ENERGIES UK

Offshore Energies UK is the leading trade body for the UK's offshore energies industry. Its membership includes over 400 organisations with an interest in offshore oil, gas, carbon capture and storage, hydrogen, and offshore wind. Working together with its members, it is a driving force supporting the UK in ensuring security of energy supply while helping to meet its net zero ambitions.

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